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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3305

February 15, 2008

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MAY 15 2008

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Mr. Kevin Martin, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

Recently, Sirius and XM announced detailed plans for a variety of new programming packages that the combined company will offer to consumers once its pending merger is approved by the FCC and the Department of Justice. Among these new offerings are two packages that will enable consumers to choose programming on an a la carte basis.

In addition to the two a la carte packages, the new offerings will include several packages geared toward consumers with specific programming interests. For example, a combined Sirius/XM plans to offer a "Mostly Music" package, a "News, Sports & Talk" package, and two "Family Friendly" packages that exclude adult-themed content. In addition, some of the new offerings will include "best of" programming from both Sirius and XM, giving consumers the opportunity to receive the most appealing channels from both providers without having to subscribe to, and pay separately for, two services.

This new array of offerings will expand consumer choice and give satellite radio subscribers the chance to achieve substantial savings. In fact, one of the new a la carte packages will be offered at \$6.99 per month—a savings of 46 percent over the existing standard monthly price of \$12.95. Importantly, these new options also will mean that consumers will not have to receive or pay for content that they do not want. Perhaps most worth noting, the new a la carte offerings will pave the way for a unique form of competition in the entertainment industry—one based on the individual programming preferences of listeners.

As the companies have made clear, however, these innovative offerings will be possible only if the merger is approved. Without the efficiencies and synergies that will be generated by the merger, these new options simply will not be feasible.

In order to bring these opportunities to consumers as quickly as possible, I urge the FCC to move forward with its review of this pending merger.

Sincerely,

Virginia Foxx

Virginia Foxx
Member of Congress

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December 27, 2007

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MAY 15 2008

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin
Chairman

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear Chairman Martin:

I recently sent you a letter about the Sirius/XM satellite radio merger. In it I stated how important it is that competition be preserved in the radio industry. I also expressed my support for local radio station ownership and for a la carte programming for satellite radio.

Since I wrote you last I heard that the a la carte concept has been endorsed by both XM and Sirius. This is good news, and will benefit American consumers.

I believe a la carte programming is a step in the right direction because it will provide parents an important tool to protect their children from questionable programming while allowing consumers to pay for only what they use.

As we continue to consider the Sirius/XM merger, I look forward to hearing how it could keep consumer costs down while invigorating the radio industry.

With kindest regards, I am

Yours truly,

John J. Duncan, Jr.

JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.
Member of Congress

JJD:jg

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